

The “Fix Highway 50 Traffic First / Keep Us Rural” Initiative

Our County Supervisors are being lobbied hard by housing developers to build 33,000 more homes in rural areas throughout the county.

Today, we have 54,300 homes on the west slope. If the County allows up to 33,000 new homes to be built, traffic on Highway 50 west of Placerville will worsen by 50% or more. Highway 50 in the west county has now reached maximum capacity, and there are no plans to sufficiently widen it.

The County currently has 16,000 vacant parcels to build new homes, which is enough to last 20 years. Rather than approve more housing subdivisions that worsen traffic – the County should start approving job projects to reduce commute traffic.

In 2004, when voters narrowly approved the General Plan, the County promised to “Fix Traffic and Limit Growth”. Residents expect this promise to be kept.

The people of El Dorado County do ordain that the following two policies be added to the General Plan:

FIX HIGHWAY 50 TRAFFIC FIRST. Policy TC-Xc. If CalTrans determines that traffic on any Highway 50 road segment west of the City of Placerville has reached, or is forecast to reach, Level of Service F (LOS F = stop-and-go, gridlock) during weekday, peak-hour commute periods, then the County shall not approve single-family detached housing subdivisions of 5 or more parcels until cumulative Highway 50 traffic levels are improved and stay below LOS F.

KEEP US RURAL. Policy 2.2.1.3.1. Lands designated in the General Plan on the effective date of this measure as: (1) open space, agricultural lands or natural resource shall remain in these land use categories, and (2) low density residential, medium density residential or rural residential housing shall not be rezoned to higher densities. Land use designation and zoning changes may be allowed in these categories (1, 2) for non-residential (economic development) projects or agricultural purposes if compatible with surrounding land uses.

IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS:

- This measure shall not be applicable within the independent government and planning jurisdictions of the City of South Lake Tahoe, the City of Placerville and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.
- Effective date and expiration date: All provisions of this measure shall take effect upon certification of election results, and expire 20 years after that date.
- If any provision of this measure is for any reason held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
- On and after the effective date of this measure, no Development Agreement entered into pursuant to Government Code Section 65865 shall be approved, or extended, unless fully compliant with all provisions of this measure.
- Level of Service F (LOS F) means a volume-to-capacity ratio of 1.0 or greater (100%+ capacity) as determined by CalTrans (the California Department of Transportation).